

AIS Program Coordination Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Eileen Ryce
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***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

INSPECT. CLEAN. DRY.

FWP Authority

- Aquatic Invasive Species Statutes (MCA 80-7-1001 to 1014)
 - Three Departments (MDA, FWP and DNRC) working cooperatively
 - Rule making authority
 - Management area designations
 - Penalties – Felonies for intentional introductions

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FWP Authorities (cont.)

- Importation, Introduction and Transplantation of Wildlife Statutes. MCA 87-5-701 to 87-5-721
 - Authority to regulate importation, introduction and transplantation of wildlife species, including aquatics. Classification of exotic wildlife.
- Fish Health and Import Statutes. MCA 87-3-209 to 277
 - Requires permits for importation, including AIS and fish health certificates.
 - Provides for inspection, quarantine and disinfection of fish culture facilities.

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FWP AIS Jurisdiction

- All Aquatic Invasive Species with the exception of aquatic noxious weeds; e.g.:
 - Zebra/Quagga Mussels
 - Asian Carp
 - Fish pathogens (Whirling Disease, VHS virus)

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AIS Management Plan

- AIS Management Plan since 2002
 - Currently being revised
- Program Priorities
 - Regional and Statewide Coordination
 - Education
 - Control and prevent spread
 - Monitor and detect
 - Rapid response
- AIS Workgroup

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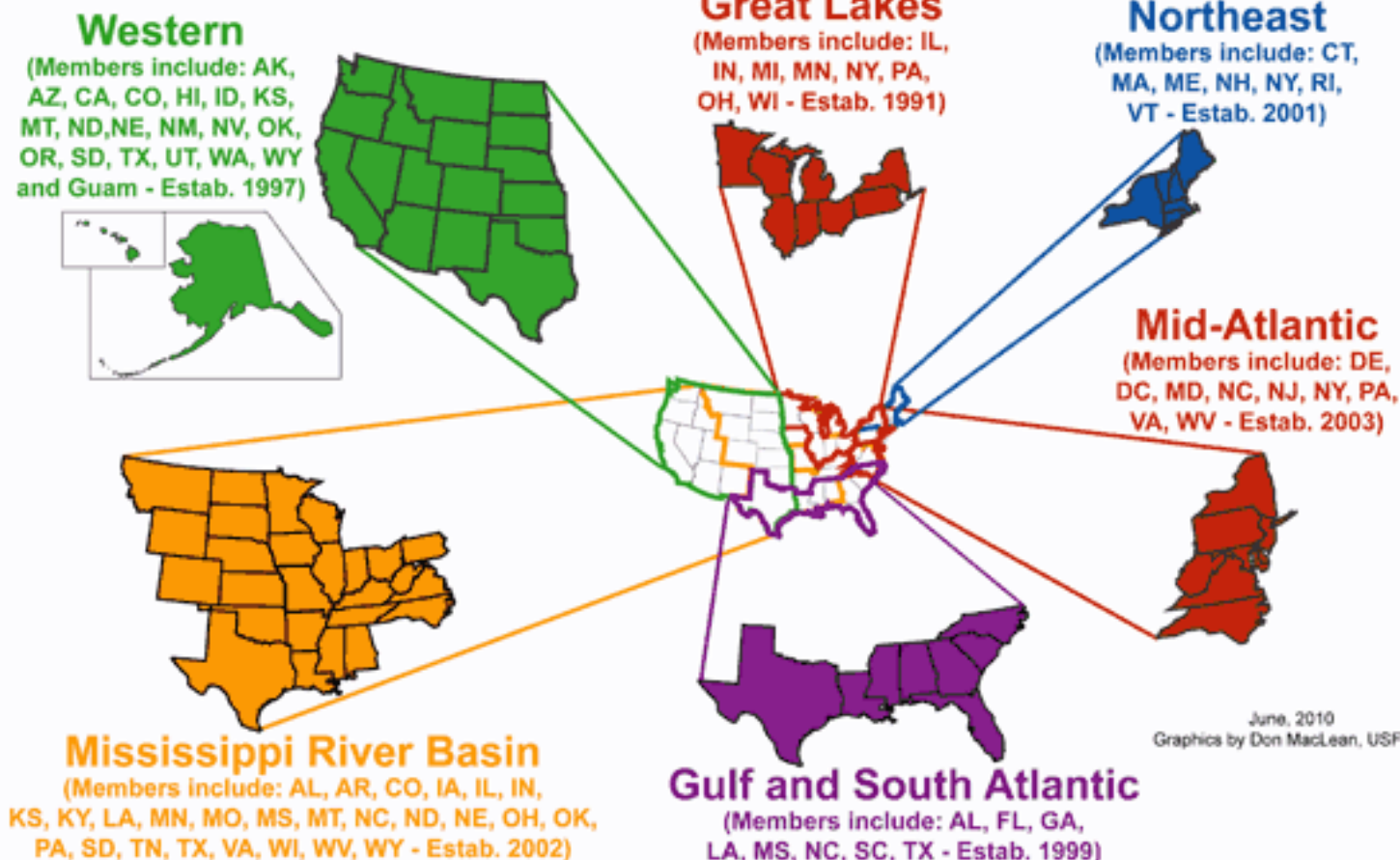
FWP AIS Program Structure

- AIS Coordinator (vacant)
 - Oversees implementation of the program
 - AIS Specialist (Linnaea Schroeer)
 - Facilitation with state agencies and stakeholder groups
 - AIS Technician (Stacy Schmidt)
 - Coordinates field activities statewide and manages lab
 - Western District AIS Specialist (Vacant)
 - Implementation in Western District (R1 and R2)

Regional Coordination

- Western Regional Panel of the ANS Task Force
 - 19 Western States
- Mississippi Regional Panel of the ANS Task Force
 - 28 States
- 100th Meridian Initiative
 - Columbia River Basin
 - Missouri River Basin
- Watershed groups, eg:
 - Flathead Basin
 - Greater Yellowstone

The Regional Panels of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force



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Discussion Questions

- How to increase coordination in-state and regionally?
- How to achieve better communication and transparency?
- How to effectively involve partners and increased volunteer involvement?